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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/703,027	10/31/2000	Harry C. Blackmon	82719	9051
20529	7590	07/11/2006		
NATH & ASSOCIATES 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314			EXAMINER SAM, PHIRIN	
			ART UNIT 2616	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/703,027

Applicant(s)

BLACKMON ET AL.

Examiner

Phirin Sam

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23-35 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8 and 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9,10,21 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

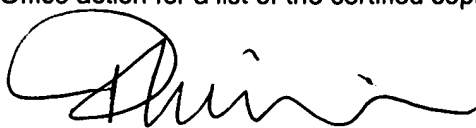
Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



PHIRIN SAM

PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3-8, and 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,975,587 (hereinafter referred as “Adamski”).

Adamski discloses the invention (**amended claim 1 and claim 5**) as claimed including a router system configured for distributing information packets from multiple sources to multiple destinations within a network, said router system comprising:

- (a) a plurality of input and output facility interface circuit cards (see Figs. 2 and 3, element 16, col. 3, lines 28-31);
- (b) a plurality of line cards different from said facility interface circuit cards, the line cards being configured to perform packet forwarding functions (see Figs. 2 and 3, element 14, col. 3, lines 46-49);
- (c) a redundant pair of said facility interface circuit cards connected in parallel to each said line card such that one and only one said line cards is connected to each of said paired redundant interface circuit cards (see Figs. 2 and 3, col. 3, lines 49-59);
- (d) wherein each of said facility interface circuit cards is connected to one and only one said line card (see Figs. 2 and 3, col. 3, lines 60-67).

Regarding claim 3, Adamski discloses the paired redundant interface circuit cards are configured to operate in a one-for-one protection mode (see Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 50-67).

Regarding claim 4, Adamski discloses the control processor located on the line card, wherein the control processor is configured to control functions of the line card and of the facility interface circuit card connected to the line card (see Fig. 8, element 34, col. 7, lines 18-28).

Regarding claim 6, Adamski discloses the first router system is disposed in a folded configuration, such that each of said paired duplicate interface circuit cards contains duplex input and output interface ports (see Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 7, Adamski discloses the first router system is disposed in a folded configuration, such that each of said line cards is configured to perform both input and output packet forwarding functions (see Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 8, Adamski discloses the first router system comprises 320 input interface ports and 320 output interface ports (see Fig. 3, the input or out interface ports are design choice).

Regarding claim 11, Adamski discloses the first router system further comprises an optical switch, having an N by M crossbar configuration, the optical switch being located within the core of the router system and having a plurality of ingress ports and a plurality of egress ports, wherein N is the integer number of ingress ports and M is the integer number of egress ports of the optical switch (see Figs. 1- 4, col. 3, lines 18-31).

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Regarding claims 12-20, Adamski discloses the communication network, wherein N is equal to M (see Figs. 2-4, wherein N or M is equal or greater than or smaller than is the design choice).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 9, 10, 21, and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Claims 23-35 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(1) US Patent 6,925,054 (Atterton et al) discloses network path protection.

(2) US Patent 6,711,357 (Brewer et al) discloses timing and synchronization for an IP router using an optical switch.

(3) US Patent 6,661,788 (Angle et al) discloses multicast scheduling for a network device.

(4) US Patent 6,160,811 (Partridge et al) discloses data packet router.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phirin Sam whose telephone number is (571) 272-3082. The examiner can normally be reached on a compress schedule, from 8:00-5:30, first Wed off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (571) 272 - 3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 9, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phirin Sam', written over a horizontal line.

**PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**